

STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL COPY OF THE LAWS OR REGULATIONS IN EFFECT AND SHOULD NOT BE UTILIZED OR RELIED UPON AS SUCH. IT IS THE FISHERMAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN EFFECT AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SHRIMPING REGULATIONS

I. Commercial: Definition: The taking or attempting to take shrimp by any trawl or trawls used together which exceed 16' as measured along the main top line; as well as, the taking or attempting to take shrimp by any trawl 16' or less while licensed as a commercial shrimp fishermen.

License: License is issued to boat and cannot be transferred.

Boat less than 30 feet	\$51.00
Boat 30-45 feet	\$76.00
Boat over 45 feet	\$101.00

Non-residents pay the same fee as that charged Alabama residents to conduct the same activity in the applicant's state of residence, except Mississippi residents pay the same as Alabama's residents. **Non-resident licenses are sold only by Marine Resources Division offices.**

Persons trawling for crabs for commercial purposes or selling crabs taken incidentally while shrimping must have a \$51.00 crab license. Shrimp and bycatch can be sold only to an Alabama seafood dealer unless the shrimper possesses a \$201.00 seafood dealers license (must meet requirements for license).

Season: Set by regulation. Prohibited in permanently closed areas.

Legal Size: 68 (or fewer) shrimp per pound with heads-on.

Pounds Allowed: No limit

Mesh Size: No restrictions

Trawl Size: In inside waters (bays, sounds, etc.) a trawl or trawls used together cannot exceed 50 feet as measured along the main top line. No more than two trawls

Commercial regulations, (cont.)

may be used at the same time (not including a "try trawl", which cannot exceed 10 feet as measured along the main top line). No restrictions on trawl size offshore (Gulf).

Other *: It is unlawful for any person to drag any net, seine, or trawl over public or private oyster reefs. Commercially licensed boats cannot shrimp in exclusive bait areas. It is unlawful to retain a redfish or speckled trout caught with a trawl. It is unlawful to discard dead fish or other dead seafoods within 500 feet of any shoreline or into the waters of the Gulf of Mexico within 3 miles of the Gulf beaches.

II. Recreational Shrimping: Definition: The taking or attempting to take shrimp for bait or non-commercial purposes by use of a trawl 16' or less as measured along the main top line.

License: **A \$16.00 boat license is required.** (Non-residents pay the same fee as that charged Alabama residents to conduct the same activity in the applicant's state of residence except Mississippi pays the same as Alabama residents).

Season: Set by regulation. Prohibited in permanently closed areas. Allowed only in areas open to commercial shrimping and areas designated by law as exclusive bait shrimp areas.

Legal Size: No restrictions.

Gallons Allowed: In areas open to commercial shrimping, 5 gallons with heads on per person per day. In exclusive bait shrimp areas, 1 gallon with heads on **per boat** per day.

Trawl Size: Not to exceed 16 feet as measured along the main top line.

Mesh Size: No restrictions.

Other: *See other in commercial section above. The use of any trawl (s) is prohibited in waters closed to shrimping.

PERMANENTLY CLOSED AREAS (SHRIMP TAKEN BY ANY METHOD SHALL NOT BE RETAINED)

1. All rivers, * streams, bayous and creeks within the State (except Bayou St. John, Old River in Baldwin County and that portion of Blakely River designated by law as an exclusive bait shrimp area). * The mouth of the **Mobile River** is defined as a line running from the southernmost point of Pinto Island due west to a point on the mainland.
2. All of Portersville Bay inside a line running from Barron Point west along the south shores of Cat and Marsh Island then west to the south end of Coffee Island (Isle aux Herbes) then north along the western shore of Coffee Island to a point on the mainland directly north of the northernmost tip of Coffee Island.

Permanently Closed Areas (cont.)

3. Heron Bay and that portion of Mississippi Sound north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and east of a line extending from Barron Point on Mon Louis Island southeasterly to range marker "D" on the Intracoastal Waterway.
4. All of Weeks Bay.
5. Theodore Industrial Canal.
6. Bon Secour Bay within 2500 ft. of the mouth of Weeks Bay.
7. All waters north of the Battleship Parkway.
8. Exclusive bait areas are permanently closed to commercial shrimping.

Note: Indian Bay and Lafitte Bay bottoms (Dauphin Island) are privately owned and may be closed to shrimping.

EXCLUSIVE BAIT AREAS

(Areas open only to licensed recreational shrimping and live bait dealers)
(Shrimp may only be taken from these exclusive areas from 4:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.)

Baldwin County

1. **Wolf Bay:** that area encompassing the water within the boundary from the south shore of Wolf Bay northward to Beacon #86 on the north side of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway then westward along the north side of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to Beacon #94 then south across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to the south shore of Wolf Bay
2. **Oyster Bay:** that area encompassing the waters of Oyster Bay except those waters north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.
3. **Pt. Clear:** waters inside a line starting from shore running west along the southern edge of Pt. Clear Channel to the Pt. Clear Beacon, then to the northwest piling at Zundel's Reef, then terminating at shore. Seasonal, from Jan. 1 to June 30 of each year.
4. **Blakely River:** that area encompassing those waters in the mouth of the Blakely River between the 1-10 bridge and the Highway 90 (old causeway) bridge.

5. **Terry Cove**

Mobile County

6. **Arlington Channel**
7. **East Fowl River Channel:** from Beacon 5 and 6 to the mouth of the river .
8. **Bayou La Batre Channel:** from Bayou La Batre Channel B.C. Beacon to the mouth of Bayou La Batre
9. **Dauphin Island Bay**

RECREATIONAL: Trawl cannot exceed 16' as measured along the main top line. Recreational shrimpers are limited to **1 gallon (heads on) per boat per day** regardless of the number of persons on board. No restrictions on size.

A map showing permanently closed areas and areas open only to licensed recreational shrimping and live bait dealers is attached.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS - Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDS): For latest rules contact: National Marine Fisheries Service (813) 570-5344.

SHRIMP TRAWLER: On-board or landed catch of shrimp is more than 1% by weight of all fish comprising on-board or landed catch.

All shrimp trawlers in state and federal waters must use a Turtle Excluder Device.
(See Exemptions)

TED EXEMPTIONS:

A. The following are exempted from the TED requirement

- 1.** A shrimp trawler with no power or mechanical advantage trawl retrieval system on board (**i.e. all gear is retrieved by hand**).
 - 2.** A shrimp trawler fishing only with a pusher-head trawl ("chopstick rig"). skimmer trawl, or wing net ("butterfly net").
 - 3.** Single test net (try net) with headrope length 20 feet or less; (State waters - try net cannot exceed 10 feet).
 - 4.** Beam or roller trawl fished without doors, boards, or similar devices....
 - 5.** Royal red shrimp fishermen if 90% of their catch by weight is royal red shrimp.
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LICENSE PURCHASING

NOTE: Licenses may be purchased by mail. Make check or money order payable to: Marine Resources Division. Mail to License Clerk, Marine Resources Division, P.O. Box 189, Dauphin Island, AL 36528 or P. O. Drawer 458, Gulf Shores, AL 36547.

Be sure to include boat registration number, **owner's drivers license number**, state what size boat you have and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

This information sheet has been prepared for general information purposes only. **Shrimping regulations are subject to change.** For information updates and copies of laws/regulations, you may phone the Dauphin Island office at 334-861-2882, Gulf Shores office at 334-968-7576, or Bayou la Batre office at 334-824-2161.

A 24-hour recorded message may be accessed by calling 334-968-7575.